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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

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From Coast to Coast Across the Dominion Into the United States the Royal Tour of the King and Queen Pyramids Loyalty and Friendship

T.M. The King and Queen, and T.R.H. Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose.

Their Majesties and Their Royal Daughters Symbol of the Family Life of the British Empire's Family of Dominions

H.M. Queen Elizabeth and H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, Heiress Presumptive to the Throne.

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CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

VARIETY

NEW YORK,

TOP MONEY PIX THIS YEAR

Film Story Editors' Jitters Over Anti-Nazi Themes; B.O. Reactions

MG LEADS '38-39; WB 2D, 20TH 3D

First Week of M... To B'w...

P. S.—And that's not counting "Goodbye Mr. Chips" now playing S. R. O. at the Astor, N. Y. and Four Star Theatre, Los Angeles. Other M-G-M TOP MONEY PIX to come ... June ...

Some Theatre Companies Racket

Theatre Leases Secured Dropped

Ray Presents

IN the name of Independence, several theatre operations are taking place which are nothing more than a racket. For instance, an Independent desires to lease his theatre, or he is approached by someone representing a group, or a combine, to lease his theatre. The bait is one dollar a seat, in some cases a bonus by way of good-will, or a year or two's advance on the rental.

This looks good to an Independent exhibitor who is having a lot of trouble getting a split on product, or in fact any kind of product which is not a few seasons old. This Independent may be worried because of a new house going up in what he considers his zone.

After this Independent agrees to lease his theatre, a company is formed to make the lease. The officers of the company are Mr. Schmerel and Mr. Gribeney. The Independent does not worry about that, because the directors may be stenographers according to the requirements of the Act. He believes that the advance money is sufficient for his security.

MEANWHILE, those who were interested in getting the theatre start to operate it to their own particular advantage. They may close it and pay the rental as a "nuisance value". During its period of being dark it suffers, not ordinary wear and tear, but the wear and tear which always ruins any property which is kept dark and cold, and which is not in use. The goodwill of the theatre is lost when it is closed, for its patronage goes to other theatres.

Those who have taken the lease, not to run the theatre profitably, but to run it out of business, build up the business of their other theatre or theatres by killing the theatre under lease, they have also prevented a new theatre from being built, because they tie up the film for that zone.

The owner, on several occasions, gets his theatre back, not, however, if he has signed a lease that includes permission to close the theatre, for the Interests who lease may find it cheaper to pay rent and keep the theatre closed, than to have it open as competition.

There are other policies or politics involved. He may get his theatre back because the Interests who took the theatre in the first place as a "play of cards" have either lost, or won their stakes, and the lease is no longer valuable to them. It is cheaper for these Interests to lose the advance rent on the lease than retain the lease. The exhibitor gets his theatre back and thinks he may sue on his lease, but if the company which took over the lease has no assets but the lease, what good will it do the exhibitor to sue?

LET us take the matter of a new theatre. One dollar a seat is the platform upon which the average rental structure stands. Let us say that an exhibitor builds a theatre of one thousand seats. The theatre cost him about one hundred thousand dollars, land and building. Certain Interests approach him with an offer to lease. The death whisper gets into circulation that he will not be able to get product. Even some Independent stooges are loaded to throw the fear of product into the exhibitor. He tries to get a mortgage and is told, "Sure, if you bring us a lease from one of the big companies". Or, he goes around to some of his Independent friends to find out where they got their money.

Abie is paying twenty per cent interest. He owes so much that he cannot get enough to buy postage stamps for circularizing his neighborhood. He pays fifteen dollars a week to an Honest-to-God co-operative booker, paid to keep the Independents in business. He pays for the privilege of getting the co-operative to consider him as a member by giving an interest in his theatre away to one of the Big Shots of the co-operative, the latter who introduced him to the builder, who holds the mortgage on his property, plus his life insurance as security, and who in addition collects ten per cent on the building loan.

Finally, getting past all these headaches and chiselling, the company which first tempted him into rental, having weakened his resistance through the fear of not getting product, the lack of mortgage company co-operation, not overlooking what he has to pay for co-operative protection, agrees to accept a dollar a seat, because he figures out while this will not make him more than peanuts, it will pay interest on investment at five per cent, the taxes and the insurance.

WHAT this kind of a theatre investor forgets is that his theatre after fifteen years may be paid for, but what are his chances of making any money out of it then? New theatres may be built in his zone. The district may deteriorate, the new appeal of the theatre has gone; and

(*Continued on Page 6*)

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FILM INDUSTRY HERE HAVING COME-BACK

Winnipeg, Man.—There were fewer complaints from the public about motion pictures now than at any time in the history of the industry, Col. John A. Cooper, Toronto, President of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors' Association, told The Digest correspondent on his arrival from Eastern Canada recently. He is conferring with Winnipeg motion picture exhibitors.

For every dollar spent by the Canadian film industry, 90 cents are now spent in Canada, Col. Cooper declared. Films imported from the United States were brought in as negatives only, and printed in laboratories in Montreal and Toronto. Last year 35,000,000 feet of film had been brought in for printing in Canadian laboratories.

The Canadian motion picture industry in every phase is now experiencing a steady come-back, being only 10 per cent. behind the peak year, 1930.

ROXY PROJECTIONIST PAPA

Regina, Sask.—Milton A. Parker, projectionist of the Roxy theatre, Regina, became the distributor of free cigars on May 16. It was a six pound girl, his first.

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Fredericton and Saint John, N.B. Fete M-G-M's Louis B. Mayer

Saint John, N.B.—It was "Louis B. Mayer Week" in New Brunswick recently when the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production head was honored by the province where he spent his boyhood, and by the city where he went to school, and to which he loves to return.

On Thursday, Mr. Mayer was accorded the degree of honorary LL.D., and henceforth has the right to be called 'Dr. Mayer". The ceremony took place at the University of New Brunswick at Fredericton with all the distinction of that old established institution of learning. Lieutenant-Governor Murray MacLaren presided, and the address to the graduating class was delivered by Mr. Justice J. H. A. L. Fairweather.

Wednesday Mr. Mayer was guest of honor at a testimonial luncheon at the Queen Hotel, given by the City Council of Fredericton and the Board of Trade. Mr. Leo Dolan, chief of the Canadian Travel Bureau was a co-guest. Mr. Mayer was given the freedom of the City of Fredericton, receiving it from Mayor Hedley Forbes, and the Premier of the Province of New Brunswick, Hon. Allison Dysart, gave Mr. Mayer the right to fish anywhere in New Brunswick and at any time, without a license.

J. F. T. O'Connor, formerly comptroller of currency for the United States, who accompanied Mr. Mayer to New Brunswick, was also a speaker, eulogizing the M-G-M Vice-President as one of the twelve greatest industrialists in the United States, and stating that his friend had given to the world "something just as essential as anything else in the way of clean, fine amusement". In his address, Mr. Mayer spoke of his pro-British sentiments and gave good advice to youth "to work hard and work some more."

Mr. Mayer also pointed out that good pictures can be made in England, citing "A Yank at Oxford", "The Citadel" and "Goodby, Mr. Chips". He promised a private showing of "Goodby, Mr. Chips" as soon as it can be arranged.

The train bringing the motion picture notable was met by Hon. J. B. McNair, Attorney-General, and Hon. F. W. Prie, Minister of Lands and Mines. Accompanying Mr. Mayer on this trip are his secretary, Howard Strickland, David Stoneman, Boston attorney, as well as Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Dolan.

At the annual banquet of the U.N.B. Alumni and Alumnae Societies, Dr. Mayer was a guest of Miss Mary Tibbetts of Boston, who was the first woman graduate of the University, and who was also honored by a degree. Several private parties were held in honor of Dr. Mayer and the friends accompanying him at Fredericton.

The freedom of the City of Saint John was presented to Louis B. Mayer at an interesting ceremony performed at City Hall, Saint John, on Friday morning in the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, the Mayor and City Council, and many friends. An honored guest was Mrs. McMacken of Saint John, who was Mr. Mayer's former teacher. In thanking the dignataries for this distinction, Mr. Mayer said, with emotion, that at Saint John was the dearest spot on earth to him, his mother's last resting place, and he had visited it that morning, as well as the grave of one who befriended him in his very young days and to whom he owed a debt of gratitude.

At one o'clock Mr. Mayer was guest of honor at a joint luncheon arranged by the Canadian Club of Saint John in conjunction with the Maritime Film Board of Trade and the theatre managers of the city. At the head table, among others were Earnest A. Whelpley, President of the Maritime Film Board of Trade, and Walter H. Golding, who was in charge of the arrangements, and who spoke on behalf of the theatre and exchange men and ladies present.

Mr. Mayer gave another splendid address, which was highly appreciated, and he got a great ovation on rising to speak. Mr. O'Connor spoke also, and said that without Mr. Mayer's permission he was telling of a fine institution for homeless boys founded by Louis B. Mayer, and of his love for the place where he had received his inspiration to become what he is.

As well as the Film Board managers, ladies of the staffs of the various exchanges were invited to attend and many took the opportunity to meet Mr. Mayer and wish him a long enjoyment of the honors conferred upon him.

F. G. SPENCER HOST

Saint John, N.B.—At the joint luncheon of the Canadian Club and the theatre and film managers of Saint John, F. G. Spencer had as his guests, Miss Irene Malloy, Miss Helen Crowley, Miss Mary Ellis, Miss Alice L. Fairweather, Rev. J. F. Forbes, pastor of Queen Square Methodist Church, and Messrs. J. Gilmour Armstrong, A. A. Fielding, Gerald Spencer, J. Howes and William Metz.

Construction Of Pylon Theatre, College Street, Toronto, Begins Next Week

Dennis O'Keefe Clicks In Swell Action - Comedy

★ ★

"THE KID FROM TEXAS"

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

THIS is a double-biller, but it's a honey. It's the second, I believe in an announced series of films dealing with various sports, and starring that brash young caballero, Mr. Dennis O'Keefe. The first of this series was "Burn 'Em Up O'Connor", also a two-star picture.

While "Burn 'Em Up O'Connor" dealt with auto-racing, "The Kid from Texas" presents that most romantic sport, polo, plaything of the aristocrats, and as we learn to our surprise, of the cowboys and Indians.

Locale of the film varies from the plains of Texas to the luxurious estates and the polo fields of Long Island, N.Y. O'Keefe, a polo-playing cowhand from Texas, tries to crash the polo clubs of the East, but is snubbed. He meets and falls in love with Florence Rice, society heiress, who much against her better judgement reciprocates the emotion. O'Keefe's rival is a society poloist, Anthony Allan, while Florence has trouble with Virginia Dale, the "Annie Oakley" of the Rodeo. The romance travels a rocky road, as does O'Keefe's general existence, but both straighten out in the end, with O'Keefe and his team of cowboys and Indians beating the tar out of the crack Eastern polo team.

O'Keefe performs with his usual exuberance, which keeps you keyed up all the time, wondering just what he'll do next. Florence Rice is excellent as the exasperated sweetheart, who realizes she must be just as crazy as he is, to fall for him. Jessie Ralph—we hadn't seen her for a while—plays Florence's aunt who sides with O'Keefe in all disputes. Buddy Ebsen is a riot as O'Keefe's bespectacled cowboy buddy, and others in the cast include Robert Wilcox, J. M. Kerrigan, Tully Marshall—another old timer—Jack Carson and Helen Lynd.

"The Kid from Texas" is an excellent example of an action picture, that still must be classed as a comedy, with the latter element present not only in the dialogue, but in the situations as well. Wilton Merlin is responsible for the original story, and credit must go to him and to the trio, Edgar Allen Woolf, Albert Mannheimer and Florence Ryerson for the screenplay. A nod also to S. Sylvan Simon for some expert direction.

Book it; you and patrons will enjoy it.

Running time—70 minutes.

Resume of Pictures Reviewed During May

★ ★ ★ +

"JUAREZ"
(Warner Brothers)

Starring Paul Muni and Bette Davis, with Brian Aherne, John Garfield and Claude Rains. Directed by William Dieterle.

"The combination of Paul Muni and Bette Davis, plus a struggle between Democracy and Despotism, will mean extended playing time for you . . . one of Muni's best impersonations . . . will rate among the 'Ten Best'."

"CONFESSIONS OF A NAZI SPY" — W-B First National.

Starring Edward G. Robinson and Francis Lederer, with Paul Lukas. Directed by Anatole Litvak.

"Based on the Nazi spy trials of last year, discloses the manner in which the Nazi agents in America work, fomenting economic dissatisfaction, and religious and racial hatred, as well as their methods of obtaining vital military and naval secrets of the U. S. Government . . . Box-Office if exploited properly".

★ ★ ★

"STAGECOACH"
(Wanger-U.A.)

Starring Claire Trevor and John Wayne, with Louise Platt, George Bancroft, John Carradine, Thomas Mitchell, Berton Churchill, Donald Meek and Andy Devine. Directed by John Ford.

"Ford has produced a picture that builds up suspense reel by reel with continual touches of comedy to relieve the strain, to a climax that leaves you breathless . . . remarkable musical score . . . photographically magnificent."

"HONOLULU"—M-G-M.

Starring Eleanor Powell, Robert Young, George Burns and Gracie Allen. Directed by Edward Buzzell.

"A very pleasant concoction, comprised of several entertaining screen ingredients, namely comedy, romance, music and dancing . . . Eleanor Powell's dancing exceptionally good."

"ALEXANDER NEVSKY"—Cosmopolitan release.

Starring Nikolai Cherkassov. Directed by Sergei Eisenstein.

"Eisenstein's greatest screen triumph . . . a battle film in many ways equal to Hollywood's best . . . Russia's defeat of the German invaders makes the theme topical . . . a record breaker for foreign language houses."

★ ★ +

"ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN"—(M-G-M)

Starring Mickey Rooney, with Rex Ingram, Walter Connolly and William Frawley. Directed by Richard Thorpe.

"All Mickey Rooney's, with Rex Ingram giving the only support of any importance . . . will appeal chiefly to juveniles."

★ ★

"SORORITY HOUSE"
(RKO Radio)

Starring Anne Shirley and James Ellison, with Barbara Read and J. M. Kerrigan. Directed by John Farrow.

"A ruthless revelation of the snobbery and class-consciousness existing in fraternities and sororities . . . cast perform with brilliance . . . good direction . . . first class feature for any dual bill."

"THE LADY AND THE MOB"—Columbia.

Starring Fay Bainter, with Ida Lupino and Lee Bowman. Directed by Ben Stoloff.

"An hilarious burlesque of gangster films, with Academy Award winner Fay Bainter heading a clever cast . . . needs exploiting, but will reward any efforts expended."

"SOCIETY LAWYER"—M-G-M.

Starring Walter Pidgeon and Virginia Bruce, with Leo Carrillo. Directed by Edwin L. Marin.

"Remake of highly successful 'Penthouse', starring William Powell and Myrna Loy . . . sophisticated murder-mystery . . . satisfactory entertainment, but lack of big names will relegate it to double-bills."

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EXPLOITS "NAZI SPY"

Regina, Sask.—To exploit "Confessions of a Nazi Spy", Charlie Bahrynowski, manager Metropolitan, Regina, obtained copies of the Leader-Post which carried a front page story concerning the law suit against the author of the book upon which the picture is based. The front page of the newspaper, with the topical story outlined in black, was inserted in the outside display frames and won exceptional interest from passersby.

"BOX-OFFICE" ERRS ON "60 GLORIOUS YEARS"

The story in the May 20th issue of "Box-Office" which reports that "60 Glorious Years" opened at The Uptown, Toronto, during the visit of Their Majesties; and that bookings will follow the Royal Tour, must have been published without that paper being aware that a change in the plans for "60 Glorious Years" postpones the opening of this picture for a few months. The change in plans will leave the Screens in full possession of royal news covering the Royal Tour of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. An army of cameramen and newspaper men from abroad, from the U. S., and Canada so crowded the pilot train of the Royal Tour, that the overflow was in the smokers, the observation coaches, wherever space was available.

Saint John, N.B.—Miss Alice Fairweather of the Maritime Film Board of Trade, Saint John, and correspondent for the Canadian Moving Picture Digest, is a delegate to the National Council of Women, meeting at Hamilton, Ont., May 27th.

"JAY L"

Yours Truly

DEAR Ray Lewis:

Lots of excitement this week, what with the King and Queen in our midst, theatres running two midnight shows during the week, etc., etc. However, I think the biggest excitement around Film Row was caused by Morris Milligan of Paramount, who drew a horse in the Irish Sweepstakes. The horse, however, was a non-starter, but Morris is over $2,000 richer for his lucky ticket. And yet they say lightning never strikes twice in the same place. Wasn't it just last year, or the year before, that the staff of the Paramount Toronto office had the winner of the sweepstakes, and divided $150,000 among about ten of them.

I guess you knew that the Allens, via Theatre Holding Corp., opened the new house in Port Colborne recently. The theatre, known as the Strand, is owned by Joseph Giaschi, who also owns the King George in Huntsville, and the Strand in Bracebridge. Mr. Giaschi's two sons operate the Huntsville and Bracebridge houses. All of which reminds me that I saw Mr. Joseph Giaschi in town on Tuesday, looking very pleased with the "status quo".

While on the subject of the Allens—indirectly, that is—I might mention that they have appointed Fred Wedgwood, formerly operator at the Regent, Strathroy, Ont., as manager-operator of the Waterloo, Waterloo, Ont.

Sammy Glazer, United Artists, tells me that he received a long-distance phone-call from Ottawa, from an aide-de-camp to His Excellency, Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada the other day, asking if he would secure a print of "Wuthering Heights" for His Excellency to screen at Rideau Hall. The Montreal print was "bicycled" to Ottawa for the purpose. Sammy tells me that this is not the first time such a request has come through. His Excellency is a rabid movie fan, as is Lady Tweedsmuir, and they have a first class screening rom at Rideau Hall.

Mr. W. L. Parkin, owner-manager of the Roxy, Glenboro, Man., has sold out his interest in the theatre to Mr. L. Hanneson, of Watson, Sask. Mr. Hanneson will operate the theatre himself.

A new feature at the Cartier, Timmins, E. Leblanc, Manager, is a free parking space for patrons, which has just been made available.

Master Bobby Masters, son of Haskell Masters, was an honored guest at the Luncheon Club Tuesday. He was delighted with the food and the company, his only complaint being that "Uncle Herb" (Allen) chewed the end of his cigar until it was rather unsightly.

Yours truly,

"Jay L."

A "Closed" House Is A "Dead" House

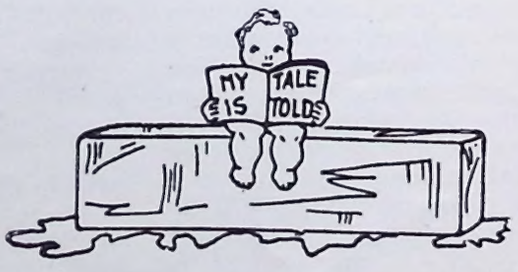
(*Continued from Page 3*)

the theatre in fifteen years will need a new roof, new plumbing, wiring, etc., etc., which will mean a further investment to the exhibitor of thousands of dollars. This time he has an old house, not a new one to rent, or if he runs it himself he is fifteen years older for the work.

Between the exhibitors who are being promoted to expand and are so involved that they cannot stand any kind of a depression or pressure, between those who are building on DEBT, between those who are building to make their profits as builders for leasing purposes only, we have a good deal of building going on in Canada, but how much of it is solid?

Theatre mortgages here are still rated as risky ventures. Is it that those who are in this field of finance are not showmen, and therefore theatres are out of their line of vision, or is it that theatre mortgages have a bad name? Or is it that mortgage companies consult the Big Shots, and the latter never lose an opportunity to take a shot at the Independents.

Whatever are the reasons, it might be well for exhibitors to be careful about leasing their theatres, to consider depreciation, and to see that those who go on the lease are good for the value of the lease. Remember that a closed house is a DEAD HOUSE.



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New York Suit To Be Heard By Fall New Dealer To Head RKO Board

By ROBERT LANSING

(Digest Washington Correspondent)

Washington, D.C., May 22.—*(CPS)* The New York equity suit will come to trial definitely by the latter part of this summer, observers believe, following the announcement by Attorney-General Murphy that he has asked that the case be speeded up.

Murphy has asked the New York court to bring the case forward for trial as soon as possible, and has requested that one judge devote his time to it exclusively. Murphy did not name any judge but indicated it should be given immediate attention by one of the members of the bench.

Meanwhile, Assistant Attorney-General Thurman Arnold is in California on official business. His office insists that his trip has absolutely no connection with the film investigation now under way, and states he will not visit the Los Angeles territory. He will return around the end of the month and skeptics are wondering if he won't return with new ideas on film matters.

While Arnold is sojourning in Sunny California, Attorney-General Murphy has released his general anti-trust statement which the Film Industry has anxiously been awaiting. It is, as was expected, very general, and doesn't seem to settle anything as far as further film suits are concerned.

The Department of Justice will "continue the existing policy of vigorous enforcement, employing whatever legal means are necessary and appropriate to ensure compliance with the statute," it declares.

The Justice statement added that it awaits results of the Temporary National Economic Committee monopoly study and investigation, "with the deepest interest." Observers here thought the so-called Monopoly Committee would investigate the Motion Picture Industry, in view of the many charges of "monopoly" that have been thrown around, but it does not appear that will be the case.

Confirming previous reports, it is revealed that Arnold has in mind a round dozen anti-trust suits against the Film Industry, in the Anti-Trust division docket. This development was made public by the House Appropriations sub-committee which heard testimony on the Justice Department supply bill.

Arnold referred to the large number of prospective suits against the Movie Industry as a partial justification for the large fund increase he wants, to expand his anti-trust division.

COMMERCE OFFICIAL TO HEAD RKO BOARD

Although definite confirmation has not been forthcoming, observers here feel that Richard C. Patterson, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Commerce, who has resigned his post effective next month, will become the Chairman of the Board of RKO, soon after leaving the Government service.

When asked concerning this report, Mr. Patterson told The Digest correspondent "you will have to get that from RKO." Judge William Bondy, who must confirm the new appointment, as RKO is in re-organization, indicated that the selection was most satisfactory. He said he would study Mr. Patterson's other business connections before passing on him, but remarked that he considered him well qualified for the work.

The Commerce official would replace Floyd B. Odlum, who accepted the chairmanship of the board only temporarily. Patterson was suggested to Judge Bondy by Hamilton C. Rickaby, attorney for the Atlas Corporation, proponents of the plan of reorganization that was approved by the court on April 11th.

Mr. Patterson has a wide background of business experience, having served as Commissioner of Correction of New York City from 1927 to 1932, then as executive vice-president of the National Broadcasting Company until 1936. A World War veteran, he was a member of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, and was a pioneer member of the American Legion. He entered the Department of Commerce in April, 1938, and has been one of the leaders in the movement to bring business and government into closer understanding and cooperation.

HECTOR CHARLESWORTH PRAISES "NEVSKY"

THE Digest a few issues back put in a defence for "Alexander Nevsky", released by Cosmopolitan Pictures in Canada.

A local movie writer in one of the dailies saw nothing but bad in this picture and advised exhibitors not to book it, and the public not to aid and abet Soviet propaganda by going to see the picture. Why the writer should take such a strong stand against an exceptionally good foreign picture, with a story directed against nearly every man's enemy, Hitlerism, is a little difficult to understand. But, perhaps there were reasons.

The market for foreign pictures in Canada is growing, and so are the number of persons and companies who are distributing foreign pictures. The import of foreign pictures might relieve a difficult situation induced by film control, "clearance" and "protection" pests. It is not likely that our Censor Board would refuse to permit Canadians to see artistic films no matter where such films are made, providing that these films are not made for the purpose of tearing down what we consider the Constitutional Framework of our Rights.

It is not so many years ago that those of us who were interested in importing British Films into Canada had to put up a fight to get some of these passed.

Any banning of foreign films is worthy of consideration and the fullest investigation. Some Independent theatres would have been forced to close had they not been able to secure foreign films. Part of the cruelty and inhumanity which prevails today gets its impetus, or start-off from propaganda designed to promote a hate of that which is not like us, of that which is different, or foreign.

Hector Charlesworth is a critic who has won his spurs when most of us were hoping to become good critics. Mr. Charlesworth said of "Alexander Nevsky", "I have witnessed nothing to match it since D. W. Griffith's 'Birth of a Nation' ". He further added, "There is no more of Communistic propaganda in 'Alexander Nevsky' than in Shakespeare's 'Histories', which seem to have been the inspiration of Sergei Eisenstein and Peter Pavienko".

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EVERYTHING FOR THE THEATRE FROM SHEET TO STREET

RKO Radio Convention Scheduled For June 19th, Long Island, N.Y.

Shooting The Stars » » At The Studio

Florence Rice's next screen role will be as the leading woman with the **Marx Brothers** in their new **M-G-M** comedy, **"A Day at the Circus"**, soon to go into production; Miss Rice will carry the romantic interest with **Kenny Baker**, screen and radio singing star . . . **Helen Freeman** and **Jay Ward** have joined the cast of **"Harmony At Home"**, **20th Century-Fox** picture to feature **William Frawley** and **Jean Rogers**; **Otto Brower** will direct . . . two important character roles in **"Columbia's Coast Guard"** (temp. title) were filled this week with the signing of **Warren Hymer** and **Edmund MacDonald**; **Randolph Scott, Ralph Bellamy** and **Frances Dee** have top billing, and **Walter Connolly** is featured; **Edward Ludwig** is directing . . . a large Hollywood supporting cast will appear with **Anna Neagle** in her first American production, **"Nurse Edith Cavell"**, now in production at **RKO Radio**; heading the list are **May Robson, Edna May Oliver, Zazu Pitts, George Sanders** and **H. B. Warner**; others include Sophie Stewart, Leonid Kinsky, Mary Howard, Halliwell Hobbes; **Herbert Wicox** is directing . . . **Hal Roach** announces this week that he has engaged **Rian James**, well known scenarist, to write the screenplay for **"The Housekeeper's Daughter"**, the **Donald Henderson Clarke** novel which will star **Joan Bennett**; production on the **United Artists** release is scheduled to start June 15 . . . **Warner Bros.** have assigned **Lew Seiler** to direct **"The Dead End Kids at Valley Forge"**, scheduled for production in the near future; **Pat O'Brien** and the sextet of "Dead End" youngsters will star in the film, based on an original story of military school life by **Crane Wilbur** . . .

Paul Muni, the screen's foremost character actor, currently starring in Warner Bros.' "Juarez".

upon completion of his role in Columbia's Mr. Smith Goes To Washington", **James Stewart** will return to his home studio, **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer**, where he will find himself elevated to official star billing, and cast in the co-starring role with **Margaret Sullavan** in **"The Shop Around the Corner"** . . . following her notable success in **"Four Feathers"**, **June Duprez** has been awarded the leading feminine role in **Alexander Korda's** new Technicolor production, **"Thief of Bagdad"**; **Conrad Veidt** and **Sabu** will portray the leading masculine roles in this **United Artists** release . . . based on **Neil Swanson's** best seller, **"The First Rebel"**, **P. J. Wolson** has authored a screenplay entitled, **"Pensylvania Uprising"**, which he will produce at **RKO Radio**; **John Wayne** and **Edward Ellis** will head the cast . . . **Frank McHugh, Stanley Ridges, Nana Bryant** and **Lionel Royce** have been cast in important roles in **Warner Bros'. "Career Man"**, co-starring **Joel McCrea** and **Jeffrey Lynn**; film is based on the novel **"Glitter"**, by **Katherine Brush** . . . **"The Escape"** has been selected as the release title for the **20th Century-Fox** picture completed under the title, **"East Side, West Side"**; **Ricardo Cortez** directed, and **Kane Richmond** and **Amanda Duff** are featured . . . **Penny Singleton** started rehearsals this week for the third of **Columbia's** series of **"Blondie"** stores to be entitled **"Blondie Takes a Vacation"**.

Trans - Canada Showings

TORONTO

HOLLYWOOD
"Grand Illusion" (G-N release), starring Jean Gabin, and "The Girl Downstairs" (M-G-M), starring Franchot Tone and Franciska Gaal.

IMPERIAL
"Union Pacific" (Paramount), starring Barbara Stanwyck and Joel McCrea.

LOEW'S
"Broadway Serenade" (M-G-M), starring Jeanette MacDonald and Lew Ayres, and "The Kid from Texas" (M-G-M), with Dennis O'Keefe and Florence Rice.

SHEA'S
"The Lady's from Kentucky" (Paramount), starring George Raft and Ellen Drew. Also stage show.

UPTOWN
"Story of Alexander Graham Bell" (20th Century-Fox), starring Don Ameche, Henry Fonda and Loretta Young.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"East Side of Heaven" (Paramount), starring Bing Crosby and Joan Blondell, and "Society Smuggler" (Universal), with Preston Foster.

LOEW'S
"Union Pacific" (Paramount), starring Barbara Stanwyck and Joel McCrea.

ORPHEUM
"Zenobia" (Hal Roach-U.A.), starring Oliver Hardy and Harry Langdon, and "Little Tough Guy" (Universal), with the "Dead End Kids".

PALACE
"Broadway Serenade" (M-G-M), starring Jeanette MacDonald and Lew Ayres.

PRINCESS
"Society Lawyer" (M-G-M), starring Walter Pidgeon and Virginia Bruce, and "The Kid from Texas" (M-G-M), with Dennis O'Keefe and Florence Rice.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"Rose of Washington Square" (20th Century-Fox), starring Tyrone Power, Alice Faye and Al Jolson.

EMPIRE
"The Last of Mrs. Cheyney" (M-G-M), starring Joan Crawford, William Powell and Robert Montgomery, and "International Crime" (G-N), with Rod LaRocque and Astrid Allwyn.

MAYFAIR
"The Lady Vanishes" (G-B), starring Margaret Lockwood and Michael Redgrave, and "Almost a Gentleman" (RKO Radio), with James Ellison.

REGENT
"Tail Spin" (20th Century-Fox), starring Alice Faye, Constance Bennett and Nancy Kelly, and "Little Miss Thoroughbred" (Warners), with Janet Chapman.

STRAND
"The Young in Heart" (Selznick-U.A.), starring Janet Gaynor, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Paulette Goddard.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"The Hardys Ride High" (M-G-M), starring Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Fay Holden and Cecilia Parker.

GAIETY
"Kentucky" (20th Century-Fox), starring Loretta Young and Richard Greene and "Yes, My Darling Daughter" (Warners), starring Priscilla Lane and Jeffrey Lynn.

GARRICK
"Stagecoach" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Claire Trevor and John Wayne.

LYCEUM
"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (20th Century-Fox), with Richard Greene and Basil Rathbone.

METROPOLITAN
"Lucky Night" (M-G-M), starring Myrna Loy and Robert Taylor.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"Dark Victory" (Warners), starring Bette Davis with George Brent.

ISIS
"St. Louis Blues" (Paramount), starring Dorothy Lamour and Lloyd Nolan, and "Ebb Tide" (Paramount), starring Ray Milland and Frances Farmer.

PALACE
"Let Freedom Ring" (M-G-M), starring Nelson Eddy, and "The Lady Objects" (Columbia), with Lanny Ross and Gloria Stuart.

STRAND
"Thanks for Everything" (20th Century-Fox), starring Adolphe Menjou, Jack Oakie and Jack Haley, and "Submarine Patrol" (20th Century-Fox), starring Richard Greene and Nancy Kelly.

KINEMA
"There Goes My Heart" (Selznick-U.A.), starring Fredric March and Virginia Bruce, and "Sky Giant" (RKO Radio), starring Richard Dix and Chester Morris.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL
"Rose of Washington Square" (20th Century-Fox), starring Tyrone Power, Alice Faye and Al Jolson.

DOMINION
"Pygmalion" (M-G-M), starring Leslie Howard and Wendy Hiller, and "They Made Her a Spy" (RKO Radio), with Sally Eilers.

DUNBAR
"Suez" (20th Century-Fox), starring Tyrone Power, Loretta Young and Annabella, and "Mysterious Rider" (Paramount), with Russell Hayden.

ORPHEUM
"Confessions of a Nazi Spy" (Warners), starring Edward G. Robinson and Francis Lederer.

PLAZA
"Prison Without Bars" (London Films-U.A.), starring Corinne Luchaire.